

TVT Board of Trustees

Minutes of the meeting held on
Thursday 22nd October 2015 at 1930 at
The School House, Chard Street, Thorncombe (Richard Holt's house)

Present: John Higgs (chair), Mary Marsh (treasurer), Richard Holt (vice-chair), Mark Agnew, Jan Walker, John Whitbread.

The Chair welcomed all to the inaugural meeting of the newly formed Board of Trustees for the TVT.

1 Apologies: Kate Cahn, Sally Welford

2 Minutes of last meeting. The minutes of the meeting on 25th June were read and approved. The resources mentioned therein [bat detector & post basher] have not yet been made available to the parish via the village website. These, together with the minutes of meetings are to be posted as agreed.

3 Treasurer's Report. The balance in the current account is £8211.38 plus some £50 in petty cash. There is a very small holding of residual Santander shares, left over from transferring the account to Lloyds that needs to be realised. Santander will not proceed without the authorisation of the original account holders, so Rachael Whitbread will be asked to resolve this.

4 Secretary's report. The Secretary was unable to attend this meeting.

5 Maintenance of Woods. "Johnson's Wood" refers to the trees planted by the Trust alongside the path from Wittey's Lane to the Dungeon. These trees now require some management to improve the health and appearance of the wood. There are some oak trees overshadowed by cherry trees, for example, which could benefit from some thinning. Advice will be sought about what needs to be done and John Whitbread will put a notice in the Parish magazine inviting volunteers to participate in helping to carry out any work.

6 Constitution Amendments. Dick Arnold has suggested some minor amendments to the Constitution. These have been circulated to committee members for consideration and will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. Applications for Funds. There was discussion about the Trust's policy in distributing funds. In the past the Trust's prompt financial support in opposing unsuitable development was crucial in getting effective action. The committee will reflect on whether a minimum reserve of funds needs to be maintained in the future for this purpose.

Before considering individual applications the committee considered possible conflicts of interest. It was agreed that if there was no obvious personal or pecuniary involvement for any member who might be considered associated with an application, then that member would not be required to withdraw from the discussion

of any application. If the committee considered the association to be too close, then the member would be asked to withdraw during discussion of the application.

It was agreed that direct interviews with applicants might be helpful in some cases. The committee may at any time therefore nominate a sub-committee of two or three members to gather detailed information and report back to committee as required.

- i) David Marsh on behalf of Thorncombe Playing Field. This application is for 50% funding for an Amphitheatre to be formed on the original BMX area or close by, to be used by the school and others. Benches will be added for seating and work areas, and the area will be seeded with grasses and wild flowers. The area will be wheelchair accessible from the paths. Before work starts the area needs to be assessed for suitable ground conditions, and work is not expected to start before spring 2016.
It was noted that the Playground committee do not have a current lease in place from the Parish Council, and therefore no legal authority to act in the playground. The committee is sympathetic to this application, but before proceeding would like to see a proper lease in place, more detailed costings with evidence of competitive tendering, evidence of good financial governance, and a pattern of fund-raising established. It would also be helpful if the applicant could show a stronger correlation with the aims of the Trust. It was agreed to defer a decision on this application.
- ii) Rachael Whitbread. Application for £102 to scan and digitise the WI 1967 Scrapbook. This impressive document records village life in all its aspects. It deserves wider availability and it is proposed to make it accessible to all via the village website and by DVD/CD. A professional printer has quoted for the work. The committee approved the application.
- iii) Nigel Higgins (for TPC Rights of Way Committee). Application for cost of new gate, £380, as part of upgrade of the track from High Street to behind Gribb View. This will provide wheelchair access to the fields from the road. The Committee approved the application.
- iv) Nigel Higgins (for TPC RoW committee). Application for 5% (£200) funding of scheme to refurbish major signposts in the Parish. The Committee approved the application.

Cheques for these three successful applications were issued at the meeting.

8 Any Other Business. Mary Marsh will ask Rachael Whitbread to try and resolve the disposal of the residual Santander shares.

9 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 17th March 2016 at 1900 at The School House.

The meeting closed at 2110.